

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3176

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, UK, GT, BH

SUBJ: BELIZE DISPUTE - DRAFT RESOLUTION

1. BRITISH PERM REP RICHARD GAVE US TEXT OF DRAFT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON BELIZE WHICH HE INTENDS
TO DISCUSS WITH GUATEMALANS OCTOBER 23. RICHARD SAID
CURRENT DRAFT IS DESCENDED FROM ONE WHICH BELIZEANAS HAD
ACCEPTED IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS SOME TIME AGO. IN
SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAMAICA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO,
GUYANA, BARBADOS AND BELIZE THE PRESENT VERSION HAD
EVOLVED. IT REPRESENTED THE LEAST THESE FIVE WOULD ACCEPT.
MAJOR DIFFICULTY HAD BEEN DISSUADING THE, BELIZEANS
AND THEIR CARIBBEAN FRIENDS FROM INSISTING ON BELIZE'S
VETO RIGHT IN PROSPECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN U.K.
AND GUATEMALA. PRINCIPAL BRITISH CONCERN IS THAT ONCE DRAFT
HAS BEEN INTRODUCED WITH CARIBBEAN SPONSORSHIP IT WILL
BE UNDER THEIR CONTROL AND MIGHT BE SUBJECTED TO AMEND-
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MENT EFFORTS. PRESENT DRAFT IS "JUST ON THE NEAR SIDE OF

ALL RIGHT." BRITISH PRINCIPAL WEAPON FOR KEEPING DRAFT
SANITARY WOULD BE THREAT OF WITHHOLDING ITS OWN POSITIVE
VOTE WHICH WOULD MAKE THE RESOLUTION SOMEWHAT RIDICULOUS
EVEN IF IT WERE PASSED BY A LARGE MAJORITY.

2. RICHARD EMPHASIZED THREE ELEMENTS OF RESOLUTION AS
FORMULATED: (A) IT WOULD ESTABLISH BELIZE'S RIGHT TO
INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION; (B) IT WOULD NOT
HUMILIATE THE GUATEMALANS; (C) IT PROVIDES FOR RESUMED
NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUATEMALA BY BELIZE AND THE U.K. THE
FIRST TASK FACING THE BRITISH IS TO PERSUADE THE
GUATEMALANS THAT THE RESOLUTION IS NOT INTOLERABLE AND
HUMILIATING. BRITISH RECOGNIZE THAT OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH
TWO ("DECLARES THAT THE INVIOABILITY AND TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY OF BELIZE MUST BE PRESERVED") WILL TAKE SOME
EXPLAINING. THIS COULD, OF COURSE, BE AN AGREED AMBIGUITY
SINCE THE TWO SIDES DO NOT AGREE AS TO JUST WHICH TERRITORY
MUST REMAIN INVIOABLE AND INTEGRAL.

3. RICHARD SAID U.S. IS FIRST COUNTRY OUTSIDE DRAFTING GROUP
TO BE SHOWN RESOLUTION. U.K. EARNESTLY REQUESTS BOTH OUR
POSITIVE VOTE AND ANY ASSISTANCE WE CAN PROVIDE IN PERSUADING
GUATEMALANS THAT RESOLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE AND DOES NOT
CONSTITUTE HUMILIATION. ALTHOUGH BRITISH SAY THEY VERY MUCH
WANT OUR "YES" VOTE, RICHARD OWNED THAT IT MIGHT NO BE
A BAD THING IF THE RESOLUTION PASSED WITH ONLY A MODERATE
PLURALITY. HE SAW TWO DANGER POINTS: (A) THE GUATEMALANS
WOULD READ THE DRAFT AND REACT NEGATIVELY WITHOUT WAITING
FOR A DEBATE; AND (B) GUATEMALANS WOULD PRUDENTLY ADOPT
'WAIT AND SEE' ATTITUDE ONLY TO REACT LATER IF THEY DETERMINE
THAT RESOLUTION WILL BE PASSED BY HUMILIATINGLY LARGE MARGIN
OF VOTES.

4. TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION FOLLOWS.

QTE: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HAVING CONSIDERED THE QUESTION F BELIZE:

HAVING EXAMINED THE CHAPTER OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE (A/10023/ADD.8(PART III)) RELATING TO BELIZE:

HAVING HEARD THE STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BELIZE
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REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED IN THE DECLARATION
ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND
PEOPLES SET OUT IN ITS RESOLUTION 1514 (XV), AND IN PARTICULAR
THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL PEOPLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO SELF-
DETERMINATION, BY VIRTUE OF WHICH RIGHT THEY FREELY DETERMINE
THEIR POLITICAL STATUS AND FREELY PURSUE THEIR ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:
FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE PRINCIPLES REFERRED TO ABOVE

APPLY TO THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE WITH NO LESS FORCE THAN
TO THE PEOPLE OF OTHER COLONIAL TERRITORIES:

NOTING THE FIRM DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF
BELIZE WHICH HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED FOR MANY YEARS
PAST, TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND
TO PROCEED TO INDEPENDENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN PEACE
AND SECURITY AND WITH THEIR TERRITORY INTACT:

BEARING IN MIND THE REPEATED ASSURANCES BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,
AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER, THAT IT STANDS READY, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) TO TAKE THE FORMAL
STEPS NECESSARY FOR BELIZE TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHT TO SELF-
DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE:

REGRETTING THAT CERTAIN DIFFERENCES OF OPINION CONCERNING
THE FUTURE OF BELIZE BETWEEN THE ADMINISTERING POWER AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA HAVE HITHERTO PREVENTED THE PEOPLE
OF BELIZE FROM EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION
AND INDEPENDENCE IN PEACE AND SECURITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THEIR FREELY EXPRESSED WISHES:

CONSIDERING THAT THESE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION CAN
AND SHOULD NOW BE SPEEDILY RESOLVED BY NEGOTIATIONS CARRIED
OUT IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE
AND IN FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES REFERRED TO ABOVE:

1. REAFFIRMS THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE
TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE:

2. DECLARES THAT THE INVIOABILITY AND THE TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY OF BELIZE MUST BE PRESERVED:

3. CALLS ON ALL STATES TO RESPECT THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE
OF BELIZE TO SELF-DETERMINATION, INDEPENDENCE AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND TO FACILITATE THE ATTAINMENT
BY THEM OF THEIR GOAL OF A SECURE INDEPENDENCE:

4. CALLS ALSO ON THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND, AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER, ACTING IN CLOSE
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CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE, AND ON THE
GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA, TO PURSUE URGENTLY THEIR NEGOTIATIONS
FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESOLUTION OF THEIR DIFFERENCES
OF OPINION CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF BELIZE IN ORDER TO
REMOVE SUCH OBSTACLES AS HAVE HITHERTO PREVENTED THE PEOPLE OF
BELIZE FROM EXERCISING FREELY AND WITHOUT FEAR, THEIR IN-
ALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE:

5. DECLARES THAT ANY PROPOSALS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THESE
DIFFERENCES OF OPINION THAT MAY EMERGE FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THE ADMINISTERING POWER AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
GUATEMALA MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF OPERATIVE
PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 OF THIS RESOLUTION:

6. REQUESTS THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO REPORT TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION ON THE PROGRESS MADE
IN IMPLEMENTING THIS RESOLUTION:

7. REQUESTS THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE ITS
EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTION. UNQTE.
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